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The Carina Observatory at Odder was opened for visitors on every fine evening from 9 to 10 o'clock during August and September. In July the telescope was supplied with a very good clockwork from the mechanician, J. Olsen, Copenhagen. The estimations of variable stars have often been controlled by my assistants, Mr. J. Skakke and Mr. C. Mikkelsen.

PLANETARY PHENOMENA FOR MARCH AND APRIL, 1910.

By Malcolm McNeill.

PHASES OF THE MOON, PACIFIC TIME.

Last Quarter.	March 3,	$11^h 52^m$ P.M.	Last Quarter .	April 2,	$4^h 48^m$ P.M.
New Moon ..	" 11,	4 12 A.M.	New Moon ...	" 9,	1 25 P.M.
First Quarter.	" 17,	7 37 P.M.	First Quarter.	" 16,	6 4 A.M.
Full Moon ...	" 25,	12 21 P.M.	Full Moon ...	" 24,	5 23 A.M.

The Sun crosses the equator from south to north and spring begins March 21st, 4 A. M., Pacific time.

Mercury is a morning star on March 1st. It passed greatest west elongation on February 19th and aphelion on February 27th. On March 1st it rises a little more than an hour before sunrise and may be seen in the morning twilight if weather conditions are fine. This condition of affairs will last only a few days, however, as the apparent distance between planet and Sun is diminishing; and on April 5th the planet reaches superior conjunction with the Sun, becoming an evening star. By the middle of April the apparent distance will have increased to such an extent that the planet will remain above the horizon for an hour after sunset, and at the end of the month the interval will be only a few minutes less than two hours. This is much larger than it usually is at greatest elongation, being mainly due to the fact that the planet is 8° north of the Sun at the end of April. The angular distance between Sun and planet is not as great as it frequently is at time of greatest elongation. For instance, the greatest west elongation on February 19th was 26° 33′, and the present greatest east elongation, which will occur on May 2d, is only

20° 55′. From the middle of April until the middle of May *Mercury* may be seen in the evening twilight near the western horizon.

Venus is also a morning star, having passed inferior conjunction with the Sun before the middle of February. On March 1st it rises a little more than an hour and one half before sunrise. The interval increases to about two hours by April 1st, and then remains nearly constant for several months. The apparent distance of the planet from the Sun goes on increasing until April 23d, when the planet reaches its greatest west elongation, and then begins to diminish, but the shifting positions of planet and Sun along the ecliptic will counterbalance the effect of diminishing distance, so that *Venus* will continue to rise about two hours before sunrise until after the beginning of September. *Venus* will be at its greatest brightness about the middle of March and can then be seen in broad daylight if the air is clear. This condition may last for some weeks.

Mars, although continually growing fainter, remains in good position for observation in the southwestern and western evening sky. It sets just before midnight on March 1st and about an hour earlier at the end of April. During the two months' period it moves about 40° eastward and 5° northward from the western edge of *Taurus* to the extreme eastern edge of that constellation, or the western part of *Gemini.* On March 10th it is about 3° south of the *Pleiades,* on March 29th it is about 7° north of the first magnitude star α *Tauri, Aldebaran,* and at the end of April it is about half way between this star and *Castor* and *Pollux,* the brightest stars of *Gemini.* Its actual distance from the earth increases from 145 to 195 millions of miles and its brightness diminishes about 50 per cent during the period. At the end of April it is only about one thirtieth of its brightness at the opposition of 1909, and when it reaches its maximum distance from the Earth in September, 1910, its brightness will be only one fiftieth of its opposition brightness. However, even at its minimum it will be easily seen, as it does not become much fainter than the pole star. There will be no difficulty in recognizing it.

Jupiter is in fine position for observation, rising at about half after eight on March 1st, at about sunset on April 1st, and more than two hours earlier on April 30th. It comes to opposition with the Sun on the evening of March 30th, and is then above the horizon throughout the entire night. Its motion is retrograde in the constellation *Virgo* and amounts to 8° westward and 3° northward, away from *Spica,* the brightest star in the constellation.

Saturn is still to be seen in the southwestern sky in the early evening during March, but is rapidly drawing nearer the Sun. On March 1st it sets about 9 P. M., on April 1st only a little more than an hour after sunset, and it will not then be an easy naked-eye object. It comes to conjunction with the Sun on the evening of April 16th and becomes a morning star.

Uranus is an early morning object in the constellation *Sagittarius,* and is not favorably situated for observation.

Neptune is in the constellation *Gemini,* and is in good position for observation, but is too faint for naked-eye visibility.